No Member of the Body of Christ Is Insignificant

Do you think a born-again Christian can be away at work and absent from the Body of Christ for months or even years?

 Answer: No — Explanation: The born-again person is placed by God into the Body of Christ, according to 1 Corinthians 12:18, which is a living organism, not a religious organization. Just as no organ of the human body can function separately from the body, so no born-again member can live apart from the fellowship of the brethren for months or years without being spiritually dead.

Imagine if the pancreas or stomach left the body for a long period of time. Could it still live? Could it still serve the body? Obviously not. They are closely connected to the rest of the body through nerves, blood vessels, and vital functions. The same is true of the members of the Body of Christ: "If one member suffers, all members suffer with it" (1 Corinthians 12:26).

The purpose of being born again is not only the salvation of the soul, but also growth toward spiritual maturity, until reaching the stature of a perfect man, the measure of teh stature of Christ's fullness (Ephesians 4:13).

This spiritual maturity can only be achieved according to God's plan, which has ordained the Body of Christ—the Church—as the place where each member contributes to the growth of the others. As Scripture says in Ephesians 4:16: "From whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."

This growth cannot be outside, but takes place within the Body—where each member, closely connected to the others, contributes, serves, and is built up by the work of others. To live outside this reality is to live outside God's will and His plan for the Church.

If a congregation accepts that its "members" can be absent for years and still be considered part of the Body, then that is not the Body of Christ, but a human structure. And it is not a new birth either, because the Holy Spirit does not form isolated believers, but unites them in a life of fellowship, service, and mutual dependence.

 Answer: Yes (wrong) — Explanation: To consider that someone who is born again can be away for months or years and still be considered part of His Body means:

• Ignoring the living and interdependent nature of the Body of Christ.

• To turn the assembly into a gathering place, not a living fellowship.

• To tolerate a life without fellowship, without rebuke, without service—which completely contradicts the born-again life.

Such teaching shows that no genuine new birth has taken place, either in those who have left or in those who remain and accept this state of affairs. God does not give birth to isolated members, but binds them closely together in love and service.

This post is an excerpt from the booklet "Are You Truly Born Again? – Biblical Questionnaire", which you can read in full, free of charge. More studies and resources for spiritual awakening are available at https://www.unmodifiedword.com.